

Interviewing participants at the 19th ASEAN COCI SCI meeting

FROM PAGE-6

U Zeya, director, Myanmar Radio and Television

These meetings were held annually according to the alphabetical order of the ASEAN countries. This year, it is being hosted by Myanmar. In the ASEAN, there are political and social communities, the economic community and the ASEAN socio-cultural community. Of the three, to implement the processes of the ASEAN socio-cultural community, a cultural subcommittee and information subcommittee were formed.

The information subcommittee will be chaired by Myanmar in 2018. Next year, according to alphabetical order, it will be the Philippines. At the information subcommittee meetings, the means of cooperation in media will be conducted for the people to provide them with



U Zeya, director, Myanmar Radio and Television.

knowledge about the ASEAN and to make them proud citizens of the ASEAN.

Discussions will be held on how to have more video/audio programmes that raise the ASEAN family spirit. Later, a discussion will be conducted on how to utilise the ASEAN cultural fund, and how to select the projects and the country.

A discussion will be held on the future work processes of the



Mr Has Sam Ath, deputy director general, Cambodia Ministry of Information.

ASEAN information subcommittee. It will continue for one-and-a-half day — a full-day today and up until noon tomorrow.

During the period when Myanmar is the chair of the information subcommittee, a concept paper was drawn and submitted about women business owners in the ASEAN for the 10 countries to discuss. As an ASEAN+3 (China, Japan, Korea) project, a concept pa-



Ms Mufidah Binti Abdul Hakim, information officer, Brunei Darussalam.

per needs to be implemented to conduct a youth radio producer workshop. Regular programmes on the ASEAN will be translated and broadcast.

There will be cooperation in the joint production of radio programmes, exchange and broadcasting of television programmes, holding of ASEAN quiz programmes and the exchange of ASEAN journalists.

Mr. Has Sam Ath, Deputy Director General, Cambodia Ministry of Information

There is no memorandum of understanding on media cooperation between Cambodia and Myanmar. However, in the last few years, bilateral cooperation has increased.

At the moment, Myanmar and Cambodia lag behind in sharing and distributing news and information with each other. However, more news will be broadcast and bilateral media cooperation will be increased.

Ms. Mufidah Binti Abdul Hakim, information officer, Brunei Darussalam

Increasing cooperation in the information sector by the ASEAN countries will be discussed at the meeting. It will be beneficial to the people and will help countries in the ASEAN community understand each other. ■

Preparations to receive returnees to Rakhine State

TAUNG Pyo Letwe Reception Centre, Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre and Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre were being opened to receive returnees back to Rakhine State Maungdaw region.

An Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State was signed on 23 November 2017 between Myanmar and Bangladesh and a Joint Working Group on the Repatriation of Displaced Myanmar Residents from Bangladesh was formed to implement the agreement.

The first meeting of Joint Working Group on the Repatriation of Displaced Myanmar Residents from Bangladesh was held on 15 January in Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Physical Arrangement for Repatriation of Displaced Myanmar Residents From Bangladesh was signed.

In the first meeting of Joint Working Group on the Repatriation of Displaced Myanmar Residents from Bangladesh the forms that voluntary returnees need to fill in were discussed thoroughly by the two sides.

Myanmar-Bangladesh Home Affairs Ministers second meeting for cooperation on bi-

lateral security and law enforcement was held in Bangladesh from 15 to 17 February.

At the meeting particulars of 8,032 persons from 1,673 households were handed over to Myanmar by Bangladesh for assessment prior to returning them.

The form that describes these persons was not according to the agreed format and was in a format made by the Bangladesh side. As it is not in the agreed format, it was difficult to clarify where these people actually lived. Additional difficulties were

- impossible to assess whether they return on their free will
- no undertaking to obey and follow the existing laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- no signature or finger print to guarantee that the information provided are true
- no from number and no date of entry on filling the form
- no finger print and distinct sign of head of household included
- no indication of whether the person previously hold document(s) issued by Myanmar government and no Myanmar address of the parents of the head

of household

- modern methods of comparing the photo by household and documents issued for each family with the photo of the voluntary returnees were in place but the photo sent was of low quality and could not be checked

- father and mother names of each individual in the household lists were not included and non-related person can be included in it

- the numbers of the cards held were not shown making it difficult to compare it with the records

- despite space provided for finger print and photo, no photo and finger print included

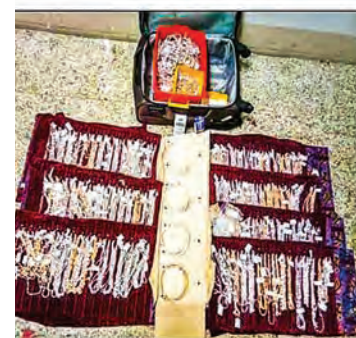
- a family photo was included but was not clear

- no signature of assessment group included that could cause confusion

As such, Bangladesh side was informed through diplomatic channel to send the forms in the agreed format it is learnt.

Discussions and coordinations were being conducted with Bangladesh in order to quickly assess and accept the returnees it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Undeclared jewelry seized at Yangon International Airport



Two Myanmar citizens, who arrived in Myanmar from Hong Kong by a Dragon Air flight, were intercepted by a combined team which consists of anti-drug force, police force and immigration officials on 4 March.

They were stopped when they were crossing the green channel at the Yangon International Airport at around 5:10 pm local standard time Sunday and found suspected items made of white gold. A personal search and baggage examination led to the recovery of 941 necklaces, 220 bracelets, 115 hand chains, 163 rings, 137 pairs of earrings and 137 lockets worth US\$ 71,290 of undeclared jewellery in their

baggage.

The couple was identified as Zaw Min Thu, 35 years of age and his wife Ma Mai Win Chin. They confessed that the jewellery was purchased in Hong Kong in order to resell the items in Myanmar. They tried to smuggle the jewellery into Myanmar without payment of customs duty. The owners will be allowed to take back their jewellery if they pay the customs duty and supply documents that prove the jewellery belongs to the owners.

They must do this at the Customs Department within two weeks. If not, the jewellery will be confiscated as public property.—Myanmar Digital News ■